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Place Names Day and Place Names Bee in Latvia

Summary**

The first Place Names Day in Latvia was held on 20 October 2017. It was held in honour of the 22 years of the Laboratory of Toponymy of the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency. Place Names Day was also devoted to the geographical names of Latvia and their collection, investigation and usage. Some 90 people participated. More detailed information (in Latvian) with photographs is available from www.lgia.gov.lv/lv/Aktualitates/2016/11_novembris/04-1.aspx, and presentations from http://map.lgia.gov.lv/index.php?lang=0&cPath=3&txt_id=116&0&ap=119).

The spirit and ideas of Place Names Day were further developed in 2017. The Latvian National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with the Latvian Language Institute (University of Latvia) and other partners, inspired by Place Names Day, launched an interactive nationwide crowdsourcing of place names, the Place Names Bee (see https://vietvardi.lv/talka/). About 3,000 place names have been collected so far.

The Place Names Bee runs from 23 February to 30 September 2017. On 20 October 2017, the second Place Names Day will be held, with a focus on the results of the Bee.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was compiled by Vita Strautniece (Latvian Geospatial Information Agency) and Sanda Rapa (Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia). The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/92/CRP.92.

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